THE WOMAN'S

DREADNOUGHT

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A DEPUTATION OF WIVES AND WIDOWS

By Mrs. Sizer, Hon. Sec. of the Walthamstow League of Rights Branch.

On July 12th, a deputation of wives and widows of soldiers and sailors went from our branch to the Walthamstow Local Committee. We saw Councillor Wilks, who asked what our grievance was. I told him we were unable to live on our allowances. He said he was about to resign from the committee, but hearing what he did from us women he would remain on for a while. He thought the only thing to do was to open a Communal Kitchen in Walthamstow. I replied: "Will it be attended to properly?" He said: "Don't you worry, I will see to that."

Mrs C—— then showed Councillor Wilks several pawn-tickets, one ticket was for her wedding ring which she had to take off and pawn on Wednesday in order to buy food for her children.

Councillor Wilks asked whether any more of us had pawn-tickets, and a woman in the group said she had several. He advised us to go to the Town Hall in the morning, and ask the Committee there to get the things out of pawn.

I told him that Mrs. R——, a sailor's widow only last week had to sell her baby's "pram" to buy boots for her children, and as she had to buy cheap ones, and could not pay the price for good boots that is asked now, the children have hardly any boots on their feet already. She has four children and her pension, is 28s. 9d., which is spent as follows:—

	s.	d.
Rent	5	0
Bread	6	5
Three cans of condensed milk, which she buys instead of fresh milk, not being able to buy sugar	3	0
Margarine	1	6
Tea	1	2
Rice	0	8
Jam	1	0
Matches, soap, soda, and wood	1	4
Coals	2	9
Light	1	3

This leaves only 5s. 2d. to buy everything else for herself and four children.

She can buy no meat, no potatoes, no fish, no greens, no fruit, or other necessaries for her poor children to develop upon as there is only 5s. 2d. left to find clothing and boots for herself and children. Sevenpence out of this is for insurance, that leaves a balance of 4s. 7d. to go through the week.

Councillor Wilks told Mrs. R.—— and another widow to go up to the Education Committee and say that he sent them to have their names put on the books for cleaning schools in the evening. But I asked why should they have to do that and who would look after their children? None of the women should have to leave their children to go to work; the pensions and allowances should be increased to let them live comfortably with their children. The children need mothers' love and should not be put with strangers.

Councillor Wilks said that he would do all he could to help us when we go before the Committee on Thursday, July 26th. I answered: "I hope you will, for these women are not living but starving."

I shall be glad to hear from those who would like to support the deputation, also from those who will join the local branch of the League, which is open to all soldiers and sailors, both discharged and in the services, and to their wives and relatives on payment of 1d. entrance fee and 1d. a month. Please write to me at 49 Melbourne Road, Walthamstow.

Of Special Interest This Week!

"NOT LIVING, BUT STARVING!"
By A Soldier's Widow.

LANDLORDISM IN EAST LONDON.
By E. Sylvia Pankhurst.

AUSTRALIAN MATERNITY ALLOWANCE

BY

JUDGE HENRY NEIL

(Father of the Mothers' Pension Scheme).

In the Commonwealth of Australia, amongst much of the most advanced legislation that has been produced anywhere in the world for the social happiness of a people, there exists a measure which, five years ago, was brought into existence without much publicity, with the engaging modesty that characterises the Australian when he tackles a big subject. The Australian maternity allowance is a free gift of the nation to those to whom it is ever in debt—the mothers of its children. To every woman who gives birth to a child, either in Australia or on board a ship proceeding from one port to another in the territories of the Commonwealth, a sum of £5 is paid by the Commonwealth Treasury. Most State grants are loaded with many "buts." The maternity allowance has only those which are needed to safeguard it from imposition. It asks for no contribution from the recipient, either before or after the event. Simply it is laid down that it shall be payable only to women who are inhabitants of Australia or intend to settle in that favoured country. And the allowance is naturally made only in respect of a child born alive, or certified as "viable"—i.e., capable of sustaining life. But the essential point of the scheme is that the money is paid to the mother. Simple means are provided for conveying the money to her. A minimum number of documents is presented, in ordinary cases, for the certificate of the mother's attendant. Where the child is not born alive, or dies within 12 hours after birth, a medical certificate (unless the case be exceptional) must be furnished certifying that the child was a viable child.

The Act of the Federal Parliament which initiated the grant was introduced in 1912 by the Prime Minister, the Right Hon. Andrew Fisher, now the High Commissioner of his country in London. He had to meet a great deal of public opposition. There is in Australia, as in all countries, a considerable section of conservative thought that is opposed to anything new. Strangely enough, the most vehement opposition came from the churches, Anglican as well as Nonconformist churches regarding it as a "premium upon vice." However, the prelates notwithstanding, the Act was placed upon the Statute Book. In the first year of its operation, 1913, 83,475 claims were paid, amounting to £417,375. In 1914, 134,998 claims, amounting to £674,990. In 1915, 138,855 claims, amounting to £694,275; in 1916, 131,943 claims, amounting to £659,715. The cost of administration amounts to something like 1¾ per cent. The allowance is availed of by all classes in Australia. It is administered at a minimum of expense, and with a maximum of facility.

IN THE MONTESSORI CLASS

At the "Mothers' Arms," Bow.

Thirty States of U.S.A. have now enacted Mothers' Pensions, it having become law this year in Arkansas, Delaware and Missouri.

JUDGE NEIL IN CANNING TOWN.

At Lees Hall, Sunday, 22nd, 7.30 p.m., Judge Neil, of Chicago, will speak on "Mothers' Pensions," the scheme which he has so successfully inaugurated in America. Other speakers include Mrs. Rosa Hobhouse and Mrs. Drake in the chair. Admission free.

STARVING THE POOR

Several anonymous letters have reached us in regard to the treatment of the poor by the Shoreditch Guardians. Now we have a statement from an inmate of the Shoreditch Workhouse who is known to us, and is over seventy years of age. We are told that the inmates are not given enough food to satisfy their hunger. Meals are as follows:

Breakfast, 6 a.m.: Tea and two thin slices of bread and margarine.

Dinner, 11.45 a.m.: Tinned meat, which is often so bad as to be uneatable, and a few haricot beans.

Tea, 5 p.m.: The same as breakfast.

Inmates cannot get sugar in their tea unless they pay for it, and sometimes there is no milk. They have had no fruit or greens since Christmas.

Women work from 7 to 11.30 a.m. and 1 to 4.30 p.m., mending clothes. The shirts and other garments are so tattered as to be almost impossible to drag together. If the women do not stick to their work they are shouted at and bullied. In fact, altogether they are driven about as if they were in prison.

Once a fortnight, nine or ten women go to the bathroom together, having to undress and bathe before each other and an attendant.

We are further informed that inmates are not allowed to keep their personal belongings, and books and other things brought in with them are taken away and not returned again. The old lady whom we know greatly desires to keep her own Bible but she is deprived of it.

"THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT."

Our next issue of July 28th will be published under the name of "The Workers' Dreadnought," as decided at the W.S.F. Annual Conference.

THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Editor: SYLVIA PANKHURST.

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Can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH & SONS & Messrs. WILLING, and all Newsagents.

All business communications should be sent to the MANAGER, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

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LANDLORDISM

10 *and* 11 *Lime Street,*
London, 30th March, 1917.

As Solicitors for Louisa Amy Leatherdale, the freeholder of the forecourt or garden in front of the house No, — Grove Road, Bow, E., we give you notice that you have no right of way, light, air, water, drainage, user, or other rights as owner or occupier over, to, from, or through, such forecourt or garden, in respect of, or in connection with the said house; and that if you use or attempt to use such forecourt or garden in any way, whether for the purposes aforesaid, or any of them, or otherwise, you are a trespasser in respect of all and every one of the matters aforesaid from the 25th March instant, and will be held responsible for such.

WARD AND ASPLIN.

This letter marks the beginning of a very remarkable story, which has a striking moral for us all at the present time. A copy of it was served upon the owner and all the tenants of a row of twelve workers' cottages in Grove Road, Stepney, by a certain Mr. Moore, whose daughter, Mrs. Leatherdale, now dead, is referred to as "the freeholder," but whom the tenants think had little or nothing to do with the matter. It is possible that in cases of this kind some men may find it convenient to shelter behind the identity of a daughter. The houses in Victoria Terrace had been built for many years when Mr. Moore served his notice upon the tenants. The gardens in front of the houses are fifteen or twenty feet long, from their front doors to their iron gates, which open into the street, they had a paved walk down the centre, and a grass plot or a flower-bed on either side. The tenants had set great store by these, and had tended them carefully, so that they formed a welcome patch of colour in the grey East End. But that was of no moment to Mr. Moore, who had suddenly found himself in possession of a strip of land!

Having served his notices, Mr. Moore acted quickly: he insisted that all the front doors should be locked, and that the gas, water, and drainage system, which had reached the houses through the soil that was his, must be taken up and connected with the homes of the people, either through someone else's land, or not at all. Then he erected a hoarding in front of the houses, building it close up against the windows, so that no ray of his light and no breath of his air could find its way into the dwellings. What miserable rooms were now the front parlours and best bedrooms of the little houses since Mr. Moore had deprived them of all light and ventilation! One of the inmates lay with her newborn baby, and saw the light and air gradually shut away. At the rear of the houses is a narrow passage but five feet across, with a high wall on either side, and entered only from one end, an ignominious sort of entrance indeed to bring one's friends to! Pride, however, is not a quality the workers are encouraged to cultivate!

Mr. Moore could now rest content that, though the strip of land in front of the cottages was of no use to him, it was being preserved as his private property. But local feeling was aroused, and in response to local pressure, the L.C.C. proceeded against Mr. Moore for having contravened the Building Act by "erecting a hoarding in front of the building line." Eventually Mr. Dickinson, the Magistrate at Thames Police Court, decided that the hoarding must be removed within fourteen days, and at the same time gave Mr. Moore to understand that though the high hoarding must come down, a smaller infringement of the building line would not be complained of. He said:

"This is not a small offence, such as it would have been had it been a small boundary erected in delimitation of a boundary. A small fence would have been quite sufficient. The intention in this case is obvious. It is to deprive people from getting light and air. No doubt your client has a right to do so under certain circumstances, but it cannot be done in London, and this is the point."

Whether the magistrate heaved a sigh of pity for the poor landlord, whose freedom to do as he pleases is limited by the L.C.C., we do not know. Probably Mr. Ward, Mr. Moore's legal representative, regarded him as sympathetic, for he replied:

"That is unfortunatey their point. I don't know whether your Worship can suggest a screen?"

The Magistrate replied:—

"That is not for me to suggest. I don't think there would be any difficulty."

But obviously the magistrate had already insinuated the suggestion. Mr. Moore was not slow to profit by it. He removed the hoarding, and substituted for it a stout wooden paling, which reached nearly to the top of the ground-floor windows, and still partially excluded light and air and made the lower rooms very gloomy, beside preventing the use of the front doors. It seems to us that this paling was in reality as illegal as the hoarding, since it was erected in advance of the building line, but local feeling was partially appeased, and the L.C.C. took no further steps.

Twelve years later, in September, 1916, a deputation from the Workers' Suffrage Federation was returning from an interview with a Cabinet Minister, when one of its members called attention to the row of forlorn little houses, with the desolate gardens overgrown by weeds, and the high railings blocking the light from the parlour windows. At first we sought in vain for an entrance, but at last discovered it behind the corner public-house, and making our way down the narrow alley, discussed the position with the tenants. We found them in terror, lest in some air raid, the passage should be blocked and the inmates of the houses caught like rats in a trap.

We realised that even if the passage were not blocked by a falling missile, a panic might occur, and we at once laid the matter before the Mayor of Stepney and the London County Council. The L.C.C. gave a promise that it should "receive attention." But months passed and we heard no more till April 3rd, 1917, when the Council's solicitor informed us that our letter had been considered by the Building Acts Committee of the Council, and that the matter had been referred to him "with instructions to take such steps as may be possible to remove the danger complained of." Some time afterwards we heard that a man had called at Victoria Terrace and had told the tenants that the railings were coming down. We dismissed the matter from our minds, but the work of removing the railings was delayed until July 9th, 1917. The railings are gone now, but even yet, the old story is not ended. The tenants inform us that the landlord of the houses has told them he has but rented the strip of ground from Mr. Moore for five years at a rent of £14 a year, and that the tenants of the twelve houses are to pay 10d. a week each for the privilege of using their front doors. The tenants' payments would work out at £26 a year, by the way. All the front door keys, most of the locks, and some of the knockers were removed many years ago, and the tenants are now informed that if they desire such conveniences, they must replace them at their own expense. Moreover, Mr. Moore has removed paving stones from the garden paths, which consist now of sodden mud, overgrown with weeds; the gates and railings are rusty and partially broken. These things also are left for the tenants to put to rights. The houses themselves are in a neglected condition. A firegrate in one of them having fallen out twice with the fire in it, and being only supported by a makeshift arrangement of bricks.

The tenants are poor working people. They are facing a hard struggle to make ends meet as it is. The high prices are already forcing them to deprive their children of things which they have hitherto considered necessary. They cannot afford to pay higher rents or to execute repairs at their own expense.

One is a soldier's wife with a month old baby, finding her separation allowance all too small. Another is the wife of a man earning wages so low that he is only able to give £1 weekly towards the housekeeping,, and there are four little children at home. Her two sons, now at the front, used to give her £2 5s. a week. At present she is only getting their allotments of 3s. 6d. each, pending elaborate investigations into her claim for separation allowance by the War Office officials, who are inquiring for themselves where the lads worked, what they earned, and so on. Officialdom always makes poor people wait, though the poor have no banking accounts to draw upon.

We have advised the tenants not to pay the increased rent demanded in return for the removal of the railings, and have written to the L.C.C. to this effect. Mr. Moore has never had any rent for the strip of land, and we think that he is much better able to sustain the continued loss of it than the tenants are to pay it.

The story of Victoria Terrace does not merely tell that one man has behaved like the dog in the manger, it illustrates the fact that it is a social sin to allow one man to own land which should be the common property of all. The Russian peasants are demanding that all the land of Russia shall be communally owned, each individual being free to hold as much land as he or she can work, for as long as he or she works it. To effect this is but to revert to an old system not long displaced in Russia: therefore in that great land the Socialist way is easier of accomplishment than it will be here. But here, too, we must secure this point in the people's charter. Not only must the land be communally owned, but the houses also. The way for this has been partially paved by State and municipal housing schemes, which exist on a very much more extensive scale in the British Dominions overseas, and in some European countries than in Britain. Buda Pest, for instance, is far in advance of London in this respect.

By way of reprisal for the last air raid, rioters wrecked the homes of defenceless working people, because these unfortunate ones happened to be of foreign birth or extraction, though the foreigners had had to bear the same risk of falling bombs as the Britishers, and some of them were killed. But the rioters respected the stupid, useless railings which were a danger to the people in Victoria Terrace and the tenants themselves meekly bore the insulting erection for thirteen years!

When will our people learn to think instead of echoing the Party cries of the capitalist Press?

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

MISS HOWSIN.

Mr. Justice Ridley acted with an extreme lack of judicial impartiality when he refused the issue of a writ of *Habeas Corpus* on behalf of Miss Hilda Howsin in order that she might be seen during her internment at Aylesbury. His excuse for refusing to give the opportunity for an inquiry as to whether this woman was interned for proper reasons was that in the affidavit which had been drawn up for her Miss Howsin had said: "I deny that I am of hostile association," and had not in so many words stated that she had not previously been of hostile association. Yet when the case came up in the Court of King's Bench on July 15th Miss Howsin's affidavit was corrected. The Lord Chief Justice also refused to interfere with the discretion of the Home Secretary.

Miss Howsin stated that she was interested in the endeavours of the Indian people to secure self-government under the British crown. It appears to us that this is the offence for which she has been sentenced, and we urge W.S.F. branches and other organisations to pass and send the Government, Socialist M.P.s and local M.P.s resolutions demanding her release, as well as that of Milly Witcop, and all other persons interned on account of their love of freedom.

POPLAR REPRISALS MEETING.

Last Sunday the Mayor of Poplar called a meeting in the Town Hall to demand reprisals, and Mrs. Walker and five other women who voted against the resolution were howled at by unthinking people. Mrs. Heath bravely stated that she was opposed to reprisals on Christian principles and drew from the Mayor a statement that by reprisals he meant better protection against air raids. Mrs. Walker moved a resolution pointing out that £2,000 was spent on making Buckingham Palace bomb-proof and urging that the elementary schools should be protected in the same way. This was received with cheers, but not accepted by the platform.

THE OLD AGE PENSION.

The 2s. 6d. increase to Old Age Pensioners is now made general, but with the cost of food up 104 per cent., the pension should be doubled. Pass a resolution about it!

HYPOCRISY.

Hearing of the King's change of name recalls the fact that certain British wives of Aliens were sent to prison for changing their names in order to get work.

HOUSE OF LORDS REFORM.

In the House on July 17th, Lord Balfour of Burleigh urged that the House should not agree to accept the Franchise Bill until they knew what was to be the future of the House of Lords. Earl Curzon, on the Government's behalf, assured him that it was quite safe.

JUSTICE?

A man who stole four loaves during the anti-foreign riots was fined £10, but the newspapers and politicians who caused the riot have only made capital out of it.

CABINET CHANGES.

The present Cabinet changes will make the Government still more coercive and reactionary, and may consequently hasten the revulsion of popular feeling which must inevitably come.

THE NATIONAL FINANCE.

The appointment of a Select Committee to control the national expenditure which has been so extravagant in many directions, is in theory a step in the rgiht direction. But whether any good will follow depends on the sort of people who are put on the committee.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

THE MESOPOTAMIA SCANDAL.

The Mesopotamia Scandal is but a part of the great War scandal. We believe that the gross mismanagement and the awful unnecessary suffering which characterised it are but a reduced replica of the general mismanagement and suffering which are to be found on every front, as they are in the very fact of the War itself and of its awful prolongation. Mr. Chamberlain's resignation has been met by his colleagues with a chorus of regretful praise. The Commissioners, the majority of whom being themselves persons in high places, have shown a desire to blame the subordinates rather than those who held the positions of chief power and responsibility, and who will undoubtedly escape any punishment that may be meted out. Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George have adopted a similar line in discussing the ugly business. Mr. Asquith quoted Burke: "Let us pass on, for God's sake, let us pass on." Mr. Lloyd George said: "I beg the House to rise above these things and say to the Government, 'Get on with the War.'"

We urge the people to realise that the reckless cruelties of the Mesopotamia and Dardanelles campaigns are the reckless cruelties of the War. After the War is over the whole War will be recognised as equally wasteful: why not stop the War now?

RUSSIA.

Last week we published in our foreign news a statement from Kerensky's paper that the British Ambassador is supporting the dark forces which desire to re-establish the Czar; this week there is news that he is intervening on behalf of British capital invested in Russian industries which it is feared may be jeopardised by the workers' growing demand for the nationalisation of the land, the means of production and exchange. The "Manchester Guardian" publishes two cartoons from the Petrograd "Novy Satirikon," which are more reliable as news-bearers than the articles of special correspondents, who must write to please their editors. The first cartoon shows a tall, elderly man, a captain of industry, we suppose, glacing down at an ugly little dog-like workman; it bears the legend: "Intelligent One: 'What! You say that all means of production must be taken over at once? Very well, you can take that factory, but you can't take over the greatest factor of all—my head!'" The second cartoon shows two brutal and burly fellows with great bundles, a little man, the householder, appears at the door, saying: "I beg your pardon, gentlemen, but are you Anarchists or burglars? In the first case I will apologise, and in the second I will call for the police." These cartoons are satirical, but they show that Russia is undoubtedly moving towards Socialism. Very much more bitter protests than this would be made by the capitalistic interests if we were making such progress here.

The desire for Peace and the International spirit animating the Workers' and Soldiers' Council are shown by its decision to appoint Karl Liebknecht and Fritz Adler, the condemned Austrian Socialist, to the Executive of the Council. The wisdom of the Council is clearly shown by its determination to secure the meeting of an international Socialist Conference and its refusal to send delegates to an Allied Socialist Conference, except as visitors.

Mr. Henderson is reported by the "Daily News" as stating in Petrograd that British Labour accepts the Russian formula, "no annexation, no indemnities; the right of nations to decide their own affairs." We hope the conversion may be permanent! Mr. Henderson is further said to be in favour of an international Socialist Conference, provided it be preceded by an Allied Socialist Conference, and that British Labour receive its mandate "from a specially convened Conference of the entire Labour movement." Mr. Henderson will discover that Russia will not agree to any arrangement which will stifle the voice of the growing body of Internationalists.

THE CENTRAL POWERS.

The resignation of the German Chancellor, Bethmann-Hollweg, who has held office for eight years, appears to be an evidence of growing trouble within the Empire. All news should be accepted with reserve. The German Minority Socialists have accepted the Russian "no annexation, no indemnities" formula. The Hungarian Socialists also assent. Dr. Adler, leader of the Austrian Majority Socialists, has declared his willingness to carry into practice the decisions of an international Socialist Conference, even to voting against the War Credits.

THE PRUSSIAN FRANCHISE.

The Kaiser, in his capacity of King of Prussia, has officially announced his decision to sanction the principle of "one man one vote." Is this to include one woman one vote? It is said that the scheme is to be submitted immediately in order that the new franchise may operate in the forthcoming elections. The "Daily News" refers to the present "infamously unfair three-class franchise" in Prussia. The British Government Bill is setting up a four-class franchise for this country: (1) Business men and University men with two votes; (2) soldiers and sailors qualifying for one vote after one month; (3) working men, who qualify for one vote after six months; (4) women qualified on a property basis and over 30 years of age.

The "Manchester Guardian," commenting on Franchise Reform in Prussia, says that this will not "democratise" Germany as "the House of Peers will remain to hamstring a Radical Lower Chamber and the King will remain master of both." Yet the "Manchester Guardian" fails to protest against the proposal to set up a committee to reform the British House of Peers, instead of to abolish it and even fails to condemn the oft-repeated assertion that House of Lords reform will mean the re-establishment of the veto. The "Manchester Guardian" is supporting the compromise which bars out adult suffrage in this country. Needless to say, it does not advocate a republic at home though it condemns Kings and Emperors abroad!

FRANCE.

M. Ribot's refusal to agree to a referendum vote of the people to decide the destiny of Alsace-Lorraine seems to indicate that he is not too sure of the result.

HOLLAND.

Between the British and German blockades the Dutch are in a cleft stick. Their Government began making protests to Britain on November 16th, 1914. The Hague "Nieuwe Courant" says:

"If, however, the British Government should close its ears the Dutch Government would have to approach Germany with the following request:—'The English Government illegally closes the free passage left through your own illegal blockade zone. Open for us a new passage by moving your danger zone around Britain two degrees westward.' But if Berlin retorts:—'Our measure is not directed against the Netherlands' economic requirements, but exclusively the result of military considerations,' then our shipping is more hopelessly than ever squeezed between two illegal measures."

SINN FEIN.

The tremendous Sinn Fein majority at East Clare indicates that the Irish people are in no mood to be satisfied with a compromise Convention. If any man can turn the Convention to good account it is George Russell, "A.E.," the distinguished philosopher, who has accepted an invitation to be present.

COAL RATIONS.

The "Daily News" Lobby correspondent states that a Defence of the Realm Order is to be issued to ration householders in coal according to the size of their houses. Well-to-do persons with large houses frequently have some rooms which are not in constant use. Some persons are away from home all day whilst others do sedentary work at home. These things should be taken into account in any rationing scheme. Whilst it is obvious that so long as the War continues the general hardships must increase, we are glad to know that a move is to be made to equalise the incidence of the coal scarcity, and greatly hope that the scheme may prove to be a genuinely equal one. To do this completely the coal rations should be supplied without charge and paid for by a general levy collected by the local authorities. We urge W.S.F. branches and other organisations to pass resolutions embodying this standpoint.

WORKERS' AND SOLDIERS' COUNCIL

The International Socialist Conference at Kienthal called on Socialists to refuse all further support of the War, to instruct their Members of Parliament to vote against the War Credits, and to demand an immediate truce. Such wise recommendations should find a place in the resolutions to be passed at the forthcoming conferences summoned by the British Workers' and Soldiers' Council. Indeed, we hope that the official resolution will be amended and expanded in many directions in order that a comprehensive programme may be hammered out. We make the following suggestions to organisations sending delegates to the Conferences, and all others interested in the work of the Conferences:—

The text of the official resolutions is given below with suggested additions in italics:—

This Conference, endorsing the resolutions of the Leeds Convention, hails the Russian Revolution, which has liberated the people of Russia for the great work of establishing their own political and economic freedom on a firm foundation, and undertakes to work for an agreement between the international democracies for the re-establishment of a general peace which shall not tend towards either domination by or over any nation, or the seizure of their national possessions, or the violent usurpation of their territories—a peace without annexations or indemnities and based on the right of *the people of the* nations to decide their own affairs *by an adult suffrage referendum vote.*

This principle to be applied, within the British Empire, as elsewhere, to nationalities such as Ireland and India, which either desire complete severance from the Empire, or Home Rule as a self-governing part of the Empire.

This Conference therefore pledges itself to give no further support to the War, and urges all Labour, Socialist, and democratic bodies to instruct their members to vote against the War Credits and to demand an immediate truce.

Further, and in agreement with the Leeds Convention, this Conference calls upon the Government of Great Britain to place itself in accord with the democracy of Russia by proclaiming its determination to carry into immediate effect a charter of liberties establishing complete political and social rights for all men and women.

This charter to include—A. Political reforms:

(1) *Adult Suffrage for both sexes for all elective offices.*

(2) *Proportional representation and continuous registration.*

(3) *The Initiative Referendum and Recall.*

(4) *The abolition of the House of Lords.*

(5) *Women to be eligible as Members of Parliament and for all offices of State.*

Home Rule for districts and nationalities which desire it without wishing to sever their connection from the Empire.

B. On the industrial side: (1) *Ownership by the State and management by the workers, of the land, and the means of production, distribution, and exchange.* (2) *The creation of an industrial Parliament.*

The Conference further demands from the Government for all Soldiers immediately the right of association and full civil and political liberty.

Also the State endowment of maternity and the State maintenance of children with free education and maintenance from the school nursery to the University or technical training institute.

To that end this Conference calls upon the bodies represented at once to establish Workers' and Soldiers' *and Housewives* Councils in their own localities. The Conference suggests that wherever possible the Trades Councils should take the initiative, but failing that, or where a Trades Council does not exist, the other bodies in the district should immediately arrange to co-operate in forming a local Workers' and Soldiers' Council.

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THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Editor: SYLVIA PANKHURST.

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Vol. IV. No. 17 **Sat., July 21st, 1917**

LANDLORDISM

10 *and* 11 *Lime Street,*
London, 30th March, 1917.

As Solicitors for Louisa Amy Leatherdale, the freeholder of the forecourt or garden in front of the house No. — Grove Road, Bow, E., we give you notice that you have no right of way, light, air, water, drainage, user, or other rights as owner or occupier over, to, from, or through, such forecourt or garden, in respect of, or in connection with the said house; and that if you use or attempt to use such forecourt or garden in any way, whether for the purposes aforesaid, or any of them, or otherwise, you are a trespasser in respect of all and every one of the matters aforesaid from the 25th March instant, and will be held responsible for such. WARD AND ASPLIN.

This letter marks the beginning of a very remarkable story, which has a striking moral for us all at the present time. A copy of it was served upon the owner and all the tenants of a row of twelve workers' cottages in Grove Road, Stepney, by a certain Mr. Moore, whose daughter, Mrs. Leatherdale, now dead, is referred to as "the freeholder," but whom the tenants think had little or nothing to do with the matter. It is possible that in cases of this kind some men may find it convenient to shelter behind the identity of a daughter. The houses in Victoria Terrace had been built for many years when Mr. Moore served his notice upon the tenants. The gardens in front of the houses are fifteen or twenty feet long, from their front doors to their iron gates, which open into the street, they had a paved walk down the centre, and a grass plot or a flower-bed on either side. The tenants had set great store by these, and had tended them carefully, so that they formed a welcome patch of colour in the grey East End. But that was of no moment to Mr. Moore, who had suddenly found himself in possession of a strip of land!

Having served his notices, Mr. Moore acted quickly: he insisted that all the front doors should be locked, and that the gas, water, and drainage system, which had reached the houses through the soil that was his, must be taken up and connected with the homes of the people, either through someone else's land, or not at all. Then he erected a hoarding in front of the houses, building it close up against the windows, so that no ray of his light and no breath of his air could find its way into the dwellings. What miserable rooms were now the front parlours and best bedrooms of the little houses since Mr. Moore had deprived them of all light and ventilation! One of the inmates lay with her newborn baby, and saw the light and air gradually shut away. At the rear of the houses is a narrow passage but five feet across, with a high wall on either side, and entered only from one end, an ignominious sort of entrance indeed to bring one's friends to! Pride, however, is not a quality the workers are encouraged to cultivate!

Mr. Moore could now rest content that, though the strip of land in front of the cottages was of no use to him, it was being preserved as his private property. But local feeling was aroused, and in response to local pressure, the L.C.C. proceeded against Mr. Moore for having contravened the Building Act by "erecting a hoarding in front of the building line." Eventually Mr. Dickinson, the Magistrate at Thames Police Court, decided that the hoarding must be removed within fourteen days, and at the same time gave Mr. Moore to understand that though the high hoarding must come down, a smaller infringement of the building line would not be complained of. He said:

"This is not a small offence, such as it would have been had it been a small boundary erected in delimitation of a boundary. A small fence would have been quite sufficient. The intention in this case is obvious. It is to deprive people from getting light and air. No doubt your client has a right to do so under certain circumstances, but it cannot be done in London, and this is the point."

Whether the magistrate heaved a sigh of pity for the poor landlord, whose freedom to do as he pleases is limited by the L.C.C., we do not know. Probably Mr. Ward, Mr. Moore's legal representative, regarded him as sympathetic, for he replied:

"That is unfortunatey their point. I don't know whether your Worship can suggest a screen?"

The Magistrate replied:—

"That is not for me to suggest. I don't think there would be any difficulty."

But obviously the magistrate had already insinuated the suggestion. Mr. Moore was not slow to profit by it. He removed the hoarding, and substituted for it a stout wooden paling, which reached nearly to the top of the ground-floor windows, and still partially excluded light and air and made the lower rooms very gloomy, beside preventing the use of the front doors. It seems to us that this paling was in reality as illegal as the hoarding, since it was erected in advance of the building line, but local feeling was partially appeased, and the L.C.C. took no further steps.

Twelve years later, in September, 1916, a deputation from the Workers' Suffrage Federation was returning from an interview with a Cabinet Minister, when one of its members called attention to the row of forlorn little houses, with the desolate gardens overgrown by weeds, and the high railings blocking the light from the parlour windows. At first we sought in vain for an entrance, but at last discovered it behind the corner public-house, and making our way down the narrow alley, discussed the position with the tenants. We found them in terror, lest in some air raid, the passage should be blocked and the inmates of the houses caught like rats in a trap.

We realised that even if the passage were not blocked by a falling missile, a panic might occur, and we at once laid the matter before the Mayor of Stepney and the London County Council. The L.C.C. gave a promise that it should "receive attention." But months passed and we heard no more till April 3rd, 1917, when the Council's solicitor informed us that our letter had been considered by the Building Acts Committee of the Council, and that the matter had been referred to him "with instructions to take such steps as may be possible to remove the danger complained of." Some time afterwards we heard that a man had called at Victoria Terrace and had told the tenants that the railings were coming down. We dismissed the matter from our minds, but the work of removing the railings was delayed until July 9th, 1917. The railings are gone now, but even yet, the old story is not ended. The tenants inform us that the landlord of the houses has told them he has but rented the strip of ground from Mr. Moore for five years at a rent of £14 a year, and that the tenants of the twelve houses are to pay 10d. a week each for the privilege of using their front doors. The tenants' payments would work out at £26 a year, by the way. All the front door keys, most of the locks, and some of the knockers were removed many years ago, and the tenants are now informed that if they desire such conveniences, they must replace them at their own expense. Moreover, Mr. Moore has removed paving stones from the garden paths, which consist now of sodden mud, overgrown with weeds; the gates and railings are rusty and partially broken. These things also are left for the tenants to put to rights. The houses themselves are in a neglected condition. A firegrate in one of them having fallen out twice with the fire in it, and being only supported by a makeshift arrangement of bricks.

The tenants are poor working people. They are facing a hard struggle to make ends meet as it is. The high prices are already forcing them to deprive their children of things which they have hitherto considered necessary. They cannot afford to pay higher rents or to execute repairs at their own expense.

One is a soldier's wife with a month old baby, finding her separation allowance all too small. Another is the wife of a man earning wages so low that he is only able to give £1 weekly towards the housekeeping, and there are four little children at home. Her two sons, now at the front, used to give her £2 5s. a week. At present she is only getting their allotments of 3s. 6d. each, pending elaborate investigations into her claim for separation allowance by the War Office officials, who are inquiring for themselves where the lads worked, what they earned, and so on. Officialdom always makes poor people wait, though the poor have no banking accounts to draw upon.

We have advised the tenants not to pay the increased rent demanded in return for the removal of the railings, and have written to the L.C.C. to this effect. Mr. Moore has never had any rent for the strip of land, and we think that he is much better able to sustain the continued loss of it than the tenants are to pay it.

The story of Victoria Terrace does not merely tell that one man has behaved like the dog in the manger, it illustrates the fact that it is a social sin to allow one man to own land which should be the common property of all. The Russian peasants are demanding that all the land of Russia shall be communally owned, each individual being free to hold as much land as he or she can work, for as long as he or she works it. To effect this is but to revert to an old system not long displaced in Russia: therefore in that great land the Socialist way is easier of accomplishment than it will be here. But here, too, we must secure this point in the people's charter. Not only must the land be communally owned, but the houses also. The way for this has been partially paved by State and municipal housing schemes, which exist on a very much more extensive scale in the British Dominions overseas, and in some European countries than in Britain. Buda Pest, for instance, is far in advance of London in this respect.

By way of reprisal for the last air raid, rioters wrecked the homes of defenceless working people, because these unfortunate ones happened to be of foreign birth or extraction, though the foreigners had had to bear the same risk of falling bombs as the Britishers, and some of them were killed. But the rioters respected the stupid, useless railings which were a danger to the people in Victoria Terrace and the tenants themselves meekly bore the insulting erection for thirteen years!

When will our people learn to think instead of echoing the Party cries of the capitalist Press?

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

MISS HOWSIN.

Mr. Justice Ridley acted with an extreme lack of judicial impartiality when he refused the issue of a writ of *Habeas Corpus* on behalf of Miss Hilda Howsin in order that she might be seen during her internment at Aylesbury. His excuse for refusing to give the opportunity for an inquiry as to whether this woman was interned for proper reasons was that in the affidavit which had been drawn up for her Miss Howsin had said: "I deny that I am of hostile association," and had not in so many words stated that she had not previously been of hostile association. Yet when the case came up in the Court of King's Bench on July 15th Miss Howsin's affidavit was corrected. The Lord Chief Justice also refused to interfere with the discretion of the Home Secretary.

Miss Howsin stated that she was interested in the endeavours of the Indian people to secure self-government under the British crown. It appears to us that this is the offence for which she has been sentenced, and we urge W.S.F. branches and other organisations to pass and send the Government, Socialist M.P.s and local M.P.s resolutions demanding her release, as well as that of Milly Witcop, and all other persons interned on account of their love of freedom.

POPLAR REPRISALS MEETING.

Last Sunday the Mayor of Poplar called a meeting in the Town Hall to demand reprisals, and Mrs. Walker and five other women who voted against the resolution were howled at by unthinking people. Mrs. Heath bravely stated that she was opposed to reprisals on Christian principles and drew from the Mayor a statement that by reprisals he meant better protection against air raids. Mrs. Walker moved a resolution pointing out that £2,000 was spent on making Buckingham Palace bomb-proof and urging that the elementary schools should be protected in the same way. This was received with cheers, but not accepted by the platform.

THE OLD AGE PENSION.

The 2s. 6d. increase to Old Age Pensioners is now made general, but with the cost of food up 104 per cent., the pension should be doubled. Pass a resolution about it!

HYPOCRISY.

Hearing of the King's change of name recalls the fact that certain British wives of Aliens were sent to prison for changing their names in order to get work.

HOUSE OF LORDS REFORM.

In the House on July 17th, Lord Balfour of Burleigh urged that the House should not agree to accept the Franchise Bill until they knew what was to be the future of the House of Lords. Earl Curzon, on the Government's behalf, assured him that it was quite safe.

JUSTICE?

A man who stole four loaves during the anti-foreign riots was fined £10, but the newspapers and politicians who caused the riot have only made capital out of it.

CABINET CHANGES.

The present Cabinet changes will make the Government still more coercive and reactionary, and may consequently hasten the revulsion of popular feeling which must inevitably come.

THE NATIONAL FINANCE.

The appointment of a Select Committee to control the national expenditure which has been so extravagant in many directions, is in theory a step in the rgiht direction. But whether any good will follow depends on the sort of people who are put on the committee.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

THE MESOPOTAMIA SCANDAL.

The Mesopotamia Scandal is but a part of the great War scandal. We believe that the gross mismanagement and the awful unnecessary suffering which characterised it are but a reduced replica of the general mismanagement and suffering which are to be found on every front, as they are in the very fact of the War itself and of its awful prolongation. Mr. Chamberlain's resignation has been met by his colleagues with a chorus of regretful praise. The Commissioners, the majority of whom being themselves persons in high places, have shown a desire to blame the subordinates rather than those who held the positions of chief power and responsibility, and who will undoubtedly escape any punishment that may be meted out. Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George have adopted a similar line in discussing the ugly business. Mr. Asquith quoted Burke: "Let us pass on, for God's sake, let us pass on." Mr. Lloyd George said: "I beg the House to rise above these things and say to the Government, 'Get on with the War.'"

We urge the people to realise that the reckless cruelties of the Mesopotamia and Dardanelles campaigns are the reckless cruelties of the War. After the War is over the whole War will be recognised as equally wasteful: why not stop the War now?

RUSSIA.

Last week we published in our foreign news a statement from Kerensky's paper that the British Ambassador is supporting the dark forces which desire to re-establish the Czar; this week there is news that he is intervening on behalf of British capital invested in Russian industries which it is feared may be jeopardised by the workers' growing demand for the nationalisation of the land, the means of production and exchange. The "Manchester Guardian" publishes two cartoons from the Petrograd "Novy Satirikon," which are more reliable as news-bearers than the articles of special correspondents, who must write to please their editors. The first cartoon shows a tall, elderly man, a captain of industry, we suppose, glacing down at an ugly little dog-like workman; it bears the legend: "Intelligent One: 'What! You say that all means of production must be taken over at once? Very well, you can take that factory, but you can't take over the greatest factor of all—my head!'" The second cartoon shows two brutal and burly fellows with great bundles, a little man, the householder, appears at the door, saying: "I beg your pardon, gentlemen, but are you Anarchists or burglars? In the first case I will apologise, and in the second I will call for the police." These cartoons are satirical, but they show that Russia is undoubtedly moving towards Socialism. Very much more bitter protests than this would be made by the capitalistic interests if we were making such progress here.

The desire for Peace and the International spirit animating the Workers' and Soldiers' Council are shown by its decision to appoint Karl Liebknecht and Fritz Adler, the condemned Austrian Socialist, to the Executive of the Council. The wisdom of the Council is clearly shown by its determination to secure the meeting of an international Socialist Conference and its refusal to send delegates to an Allied Socialist Conference, except as visitors.

Mr. Henderson is reported by the "Daily News" as stating in Petrograd that British Labour accepts the Russian formula, "no annexation, no indemnities; the right of nations to decide their own affairs." We hope the conversion may be permanent! Mr. Henderson is further said to be in favour of an international Socialist Conference, provided it be preceded by an Allied Socialist Conference, and that British Labour receive its mandate "from a specially convened Conference of the entire Labour movement." Mr. Henderson will discover that Russia will not agree to any arrangement which will stifle the voice of the growing body of Internationalists.

THE CENTRAL POWERS.

The resignation of the German Chancellor, Bethmann-Hollweg, who has held office for eight years, appears to be an evidence of growing trouble within the Empire. All news should be accepted with reserve. The German Minority Socialists have accepted the Russian "no annexation, no indemnities" formula. The Hungarian Socialists also assent. Dr. Adler, leader of the Austrian Majority Socialists, has declared his willingness to carry into practice the decisions of an international Socialist Conference, even to voting against the War Credits.

THE PRUSSIAN FRANCHISE.

The Kaiser, in his capacity of King of Prussia, has officially announced his decision to sanction the principle of "one man one vote." Is this to include one woman one vote? It is said that the scheme is to be submitted immediately in order that the new franchise may operate in the forthcoming elections. The "Daily News" refers to the present "infamously unfair three-class franchise" in Prussia. The British Government Bill is setting up a four-class franchise for this country: (1) Business men and University men with two votes; (2) soldiers and sailors qualifying for one vote after one month; (3) working men, who qualify for one vote after six months; (4) women qualified on a property basis and over 30 years of age.

The "Manchester Guardian," commenting on Franchise Reform in Prussia, says that this will not "democratise" Germany as "the House of Peers will remain to hamstring a Radical Lower Chamber and the King will remain master of both." Yet the "Manchester Guardian" fails to protest against the proposal to set up a committee to reform the British House of Peers, instead of to abolish it and even fails to condemn the oft-repeated assertion that House of Lords reform will mean the re-establishment of the veto. The "Manchester Guardian" is supporting the compromise which bars out adult suffrage in this country. Needless to say, it does not advocate a republic at home though it condemns Kings and Emperors abroad!

FRANCE.

M. Ribot's refusal to agree to a referendum vote of the people to decide the destiny of Alsace-Lorraine seems to indicate that he is not too sure of the result.

HOLLAND.

Between the British and German blockades the Dutch are in a cleft stick. Their Government began making protests to Britain on November 10th, 1914. The Hague "Nieuwe Courant" says:

"If, however, the British Government should close its ears the Dutch Government would have to approach Germany with the following request:—'The English Government illegally closes the free passage left through your own illegal blockade zone. Open for us a new passage by moving your danger zone around Britain two degrees westward.'. But if Berlin retorts:—'Our measure is not directed against the Netherlands' economic requirements, but exclusively the result of military considerations,' then our shipping is more hopelessly than ever squeezed between two illegal measures."

SINN FEIN.

The tremendous Sinn Fein majority at East Clare indicates that the Irish people are in no mood to be satisfied with a compromise Convention. If any man can turn the Convention to good account it is George Russell, "A.E.," the distinguished philosopher, who has accepted an invitation to be present.

COAL RATIONS.

The "Daily News" Lobby correspondent states that a Defence of the Realm Order is to be issued to ration householders in coal according to the size of their houses. Well-to-do persons with large houses frequently have some rooms which are not in constant use. Some persons are away from home all day whilst others do sedentary work at home. These things should be taken into account in any rationing scheme. Whilst it is obvious that so long as the War continues the general hardships must increase, we are glad to know that a move is to be made to equalise the incidence of the coal scarcity, and greatly hope that the scheme may prove to be a genuinely equal one. To do this completely the coal rations should be supplied without charge and paid for by a general levy collected by the local authorities. We urge W.S.F. branches and other organisations to pass resolutions embodying this standpoint.

WORKERS' AND SOLDIERS' COUNCIL

The International Socialist Conference at Kienthal called on Socialists to refuse all further support of the War, to instruct their Members of Parliament to vote against the War Credits, and to demand an immediate truce. Such wise recommendations should find a place in the resolutions to be passed at the forthcoming conferences summoned by the British Workers' and Soldiers' Council. Indeed, we hope that the official resolution will be amended and expanded in many directions in order that a comprehensive programme may be hammered out. We make the following suggestions to organisations sending delegates to the Conferences, and all others interested in the work of the Conferences:—

The text of the official resolutions is given below with suggested additions in italics:—

This Conference, endorsing the resolutions of the Leeds Convention, hails the Russian Revolution, which has liberated the people of Russia for the great work of establishing their own political and economic freedom on a firm foundation, and undertakes to work for an agreement between the international democracies for the re-establishment of a general peace which shall not tend towards either domination by or over any nation, or the seizure of their national possessions, or the violent usurpation of their territories—a peace without annexations or indemnities and based on the right of *the people of the* nations to decide their own affairs *by an adult suffrage referendum vote.*

This principle to be applied, within the British Empire, as elsewhere, to nationalities such as Ireland and India, which either desire complete severance from the Empire or Home Rule as a self-governing part of the Empire.

This Conference therefore pledges itself to give no further support to the War, and urges all Labour, Socialist, and democratic bodies to instruct their members to vote against the War Credits and to demand an immediate truce.

Further, and in agreement with the Leeds Convention, this Conference calls upon the Government of Great Britain to place itself in accord with the democracy of Russia by proclaiming its determination to carry into immediate effect a charter of liberties establishing complete political and social rights for all men and women.

This charter to include—*A. Political reforms*:

(1) *Adult Suffrage for both sexes for all elective offices.*

(2) *Proportional representation and continuous registration.*

(3) *The Initiative Referendum and Recall.*

(4) *The abolition of the House of Lords.*

(5) *Women to be eligible as Members of Parliament and for all offices of State.*

Home Rule for districts and nationalities which desire it without wishing to sever their connection from the Empire.

B. On the industrial side: (1) *Ownership by the State and management by the workers, of the land, and the means of production, distribution, and exchange.* (2) *The creation of an industrial Parliament.*

The Conference further demands from the Government for all Soldiers immediately the right of association and full civil and political liberty.

Also the State endowment of maternity and the State maintenance of children with free education and maintenance from the school nursery to the University or technical training institute.

To that end this Conference calls upon the bodies represented at once to establish Workers' and Soldiers' *and Housewives'* Councils in their own localities. The Conference suggests that wherever possible the Trades Councils should take the initiative, but failing that, or where a Trades Council does not exist, the other bodies in the district should immediately arrange to co-operate in forming a local Workers' and Soldiers' Council.

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THE TRAIL OF THE WAR

BRITISH WIVES OF ALIENS.

A resolution is being sent round to the Boards of Guardians by the Hammersmith Board calling attention to the burden on the taxpayers of supporting the wives of interned enemy aliens and urging the promotion of a national scheme to give them suitable employment so as to enable them to become self-supporting. These unfortunate women most of whom have never left this country, know no other language than English, and have no friends outside this country, have already endured cruel hardships, the maximum allowance payable to them is 11s. 6d. weekly and 1s. 9d. per child, with discretionary powers to Boards of Guardians to raise this to 2s. 6d. Guardians frequently pay the women only a few shillings a week or withhold the allowance altogether in the effort to force the women to work, though they may have large families of young children or be in delicate health.

We urge W.S.F. branches and others to pass and send the following resolution to the Local Government Board, Prime Minister, Labour M.P.s and local M.P.s: "This meeting urges that in cases where the Government has removed the family bread-winner to an internment camp, separation allowances, or, in the case of death, pensions, shall be paid on the same terms as naval and military allowances and pensions to the wives, children and other dependants.

THE SCANDAL OF SILVERTOWN.

Dear Editor,—Though the dramatic name of "baby killers" is appropriately enough given to the dramatic crime of enemy raiders. I am afraid it applies with equal truth to those who are authorising the rebuilding of Silvertown in its present unhealthy conditions. Damp, unhealthy dwellings mean that it is the women and children who will suffer. Croup and rickets will take their yearly toll; mothers will watch their little ones waste and die, in spite of all the care they can give them. As this will go on from year to year and from generation to generation, I would ask whether the greater responsibility and the greater sin does not rest with the authorities who are permitting the present scandal at Silvertown? As this is probably a financial question at bottom, I would as a ratepayer make a further objection. It is on the ratepayer that the cost of this short-sighted policy will fall. He will have ultimately to pay for the weakly, incapacitated men and women who, surviving the miseries of childhood under these conditions, will later on drift to infirmaries and workhouses instead of becoming assets to the economic forces of the nation. I would further state that it is proceedings of this sort which are the despair of the thoughtful part of the community. On the one side we have devotion and patriotism enforced on the battlefield in practice, and exhorted on posters by precept. On the other we have the amazing exhibitions of weakness and stupidity which are shown in the weakening over the question of the drink traffic, and the deliberate flouting of the ordinary principles of health which are exhibited in the present instance. What is the good of child welfare exhibitions, of all the machinery now being set on foot by wise and far-seeing men and women, when our Government tolerates and supports performances such as these? These are questions which will come home to roost.

Cambridge. G. CROSFIELD.

WHAT ABOUT THE CORPSE FACTORY STORY?

The "Daily News" says: "Stocks of linen are getting so short that even the dead soldiers are in future to be swathed in paper instead of in the usual linen or cotton shrouds." What then becomes of the allegation that the Germans turn the bodies of their soldiers into glycerine, which is put forward as one of the proofs that we cannot make peace with them?

DEATH OF ANOTHER C.O.

Still another C.O. has died: Alfred Martlaw, a youth of 24, who was found drowned in the River Ouse. He had been sentenced to death in France for refusing to be a soldier. It may be that the wanton cruelty of this trial by ordeal had unhinged his mind.

NOT BY WAY OF REPRISAL.

The "Manchester Guardian," referring to the British air raid on Constantinople, says:—"Our warmest praise is surely due to the initiative of this latest exploit." Are the Turks asking for reprisals?

THE KING'S JOY RIDE.

The objectionable nonsense that has appeared in the Press on the recent visit of the King and Queen to France should open the public eye to the Government's true attitude towards the War and the people who suffer by it, for this stuff passes the censor. W. Beach Thomas in the "Daily Mail" writes as though describing a visit to the theatre or mock pageant, and incidentally reveals the fact that a good deal of energy and money were spent in making the visit enjoyable to the King, whilst plain men were losing their lives. He says:

"The tours were historic in the best sense of the word. Many of the scenes were singularly poignant, were novel and unexpected." "The King visited Messines, Vimy, and the Somme; he rode in a tank; he saw all the newest engines of war . . . by the special skill of our engineers he was most unexpectedly provided with a special train, an affair rather smaller . . . than the Puffing Billy of the thirties."

After visiting an advanced dressing station, built of sandbags, and seeing men have their wounds dressed, the King joined "a large company of generals in a picturesque orchard."

"I can give no more than the barest summary of the gay and triumphal journey of the King after his visit to the battlefield . . . the King talked gaily . . . and repeated, not once, but many times, to many people his personal enjoyment of all he had witnessed. . . . The King lunched in a neighbouring château, and a prettier and more peaceful scene could not be imagined. . . . Ladies and young girls in garden party dresses looked on."

Meanwhile the soldiers are in the trenches. This sort of stuff should enrage their wives and mothers. Incidentally the writer mentions:

"Flimsy rooms and shacks, where live in mushroom encampments the poor Belgian refugees"; "children who have lost their parents, women who have lost their husbands."

He briefly describes the destruction of the country side:

"As you reach our old first line above Wytschaete, the ground becomes unkempt, like all the purlieus of battle; but the fields are as yet green; weed-flowers—mostly charlock—paint the trench line a brilliant yellow. Through the rusty wire into No-Man's Land is a step, and still there is little change, till after a hundred yards the plough land begins, turned up by our shells in the first week in June; from this point no grass grows, no flowers bloom, no trees are whole."

FORCED INTO THE ARMY.

Dear Editor,—Kindly excuse me taking the liberty of writing to tell you how we are being treated here. They are using the utmost violence here; they are not only half starving us, but sending cripples on draft all over the country for 6d. a day for ten hours' work. As for myself, I am also a cripple, two hammer toes, short-winded. The Medical Board passed me C 3. These are the kind of men they are now sending on draft. I have been in service now for over twelve months. You can take it from me it is worse than the Spanish Inquisition. They are trying to make unfit men with force fit, which they will never do. The last draft I was sent to was Newhaven Docks; ten hours a day and two shifts on Sunday, and never got a penny extra for it. This is the kind of treatment that is going on day after day. It is only for the sake of my poor old mother, or I would go straight to prison sooner than put up with this damnable system. My father is dead; there are only us two brothers—the main support—and we are both forced into the army, and she is entirely left on her own. I also wrote to the Great Eastern Railway, Stratford, explaining my case. They also replied they could not do anything for me; that's doing your best for them for two years. I should like you as a lady to take up this case; you will find that I am speaking the truth. My private address is 16 Dunmow Road, Stratford, North Leytonstone.—L. W——.

FROM THE NOTE-BOOK OF AN R.A.M.C. OFFICER.

"I never found men digging or filling sandbags with their overcoats off in cold weather. . . . The worst of the lot I found were Derby men or conscripts, especially those approaching 41, and these had a grievance that they were brought out unjustly, which, with the lack of discipline prevailing, enabled them to fill in their time with shirking and grousing. Sergeants informed me they were quite unable to handle these men, and that a large number of them cared nothing whether we or Germany would win. I found men huddled up like hedgehogs on the ground of the trench where we could safely walk along, so terror-stricken at a few shells coming over that one has to shake them in order to remove them out of the way. . . . Men of the better class I found broken in spirit by association with those of the lowest class. . . . One who had exceptional intelligence and education said his experiences had been such that, rather than join the Army again, he would rather see the British Empire at the bottom of the sea. . . . In such misery of mind and body (and labour is hard to such as these, for conditions were hard, but not unendurable), these men, educated and of superior class—to say nothing of the tragedy of the others—pass their lives, knowing there is to be no rest, no peace of mind, until some weeks or months hence they go over the top, there to meet an even chance of wounds or death, the happiest release of all. And for this agony of mind the Prussian is not responsible: Simply the fact, if you wish to blame them, that they have not in years gone by educated those who are now their rulers. . . ."

BRETHREN.

A meeting of the House of Laymen of the Province of Canterbury passed a resolution declaring that Christians are "bound to love all the disciples of Christ, of whatever nationality, as brethren." We are glad to welcome the House of Laymen, including Lord Hugh Cecil, as pacifist agitators, and urge them to insist on an immediate peace, without annexations or indemnities.

AMERICAN WOMEN APPEAL TO RUSSIA. TO THE RUSSIAN ENVOYS.

President Wilson and Envoy Root are deceiving Russia. They say: "We are a democracy. Help us to win a world war so that democracies may survive."

We, the women of America, tell you that America is not a democracy. Twenty million American women are denied the right to vote.

With this message inscribed on a ten foot banner, a delegation from the American Woman's Party met the Russian Mission to America at the gate by the White House, when the Mission arrived to receive President Wilson's official welcome.

DR. ADDISON AND THE ENGINEERS.

The Lloyd George tradition still appears to reign at the Ministry of Munitions, for reports of Dr. Addison's stormy meeting with the engineers at Woolwich have been heavily censored.

WOMEN'S PEACE CRUSADE IN BELFAST.

Will all women willing to assist in a Women's Peace Crusade Campaign in Belfast and district during the month of August, forward their names to Margaret T. McCoubrey, 37 Candahar Street, Belfast, at the earliest possible moment.

A WOMAN'S PROTEST.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.—I, Frances Blacker, spinster, of an age to vote if the present Bill before Parliament becomes law, cannot feel free from personal responsibility in the matter without penning this protest against the men in power who compose the aforesaid Parliament; and in defence of my younger sisters. The words on the lips of politicians (I had almost said statesmen) are "national honour," "chivalry," "protection of women and children"; the deeds of the same politicians in two measures now before them are as follows:—The age of consent is left unaltered at 16 (persons of which age are considered as children or minors in other matters of less import) and the age at which a woman may exercise the right to vote for her own protection is fixed at 30. Indignation would prompt me to say many things, but I had rather this simple statement were sufficient to raise a sense of shame in the minds of many and cause them to work and vote to amend these measures; else who can expect that thoughtful persons can have that respect for the leaders of a nation and its law-makers which should be inspired by them.—168 Wilbury Road, Letchworth.

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PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

July 10th.—Mr. MacCallum Scott (L.) pointed out that Councillor Dollan, of Glasgow, was given exemption as a C.O. on condition that he did work of public importance. A further condition was imposed that the work should be more than fifty miles from Glasgow. Mr. Munro could give no explanation why this extraordinary condition was imposed, nor state whether the Tribunal had the right to impose such conditions.

COMPULSION OF AFRICAN NATIVES.

Replying to Mr. Molteno (L.), Mr. Macpherson stated that the African carriers and labourers needed in the transport and works services are obtained by compulsion. To make British methods and treatment appear perfect he quoted the German procedure. It seems strange to condemn German methods one day, and justify British ones by comparing with those of Germany another!

WOMEN ON THE LAND.

Sir R. Winfrey announced that 5,243 women have been placed under the National Service Scheme on farms or in instruction centres. The wage is never less than 18s., and sometimes as magnificent as 27s. The billeting rates are 12s. and 15s. War economy is certainly enforced by these rates. What do the men say whose standard of wages is thus being lowered?

THE "SLEEPING PARTNER."

July 11th.—In reply to Mr. Pringle (L.), Mr. Bonar Law admitted that Lord Rhondda has been for some time a sleeping partner in the "private" firm of A. Mitchelson and Co. On accepting the office of Food Controller he decided to retire. Mr. Pringle stated that this company has been issuing circulars advising purchases of shares in companies making a profit out of the War! What about Lord Rhondda's stern mandate to put a stop to all profiteering?

* * * *

July 12th.—Mr. Pratt (Lord of the Treasury) stated that Lord H. Cavendish-Bentinck (U.) was right in assuming that the building by-laws of the borough of West Ham forbid the construction of any building, except on a good layer of concrete cement. As the re-building of Silvertown could not be called "entirely new houses," there was no power to enforce these by-laws. What quibbling!

RATHER NOT!

Major Newman (U.) suggested that accredited representatives from Russia should be enabled to visit Ireland and see for themselves the results of British government in that country. Mr. Bonar Law sensibly refused, knowing that Ireland is not in a state to do any Government credit!

* * * *

Mr. Byrne again complained of the lack of sugar in Ireland.

RECRUITING THE UNFIT.

Mr. Macpherson explained that recruits suffering from venereal diseases are taken into the Army so as to make them fit for military service by skilled medical treatment. How kind the War Office has become!

MRS. BESANT.

Mr. Snowden (Lab.) pointed out that the action of the Madras Government in interning Mrs. Besant and others has caused indignation throughout India. Protest meetings have been held in various provinces.

NATIONAL SERVICE FIASCO.

July 13th.—The decision of the Bristol National Service Committee to dissolve, gave Mr. King (L.) an opportunity to inquire whether other committees were doing likewise. Mr. Beck said that it had been a misunderstanding on the part of this committee to have broken up. Was it?

WAR FEVER!

The Speaker seems to have forgotten his rôle of impartiality as shown by his treatment of Mr. Outhwaite (L.). He refused to allow him to put all his questions, because in the Speaker's opinion he "did not know how to behave himself"!!

* * * *

Mr. Bonar Law would give no promise not to appoint to the Committee for financial control men who are interested in Government contracts. He thought it would be most difficult to find men who were not! And these are the representatives of the people. What a sham!

THE LESSER EVIL.

July 16th.—Colonel Lord H. Cavendish-Bentinck (U.) asked for a return of the number of boys and girls between sixteen and eighteen who are on night work at the present time in the national and controlled factories. Dr. Addison explained that as a rule boys and girls of this age are not employed unless approved by the superintending inspector of factories. Considerable labour would be entailed in getting the figures asked for. Lord Cavendish-Bentinck wished to know why it was that other factories could avoid night work for boys and girls. Whereupon Dr. Addison replied: "Perhaps it will be best to get a return!"

A HOME-THRUST.

Having stated that there were 9,000 men classified A and B1 of military age in Government offices, Mr. Bonar Law was asked by Mr. Hogge (L.) how many were in the Government. Mr. Bonar Law: "I do not know that; nor do I know how many are members of the House of Commons!"

GOVERNMENT WAR AIMS.

Mr. Snowden (Lab.) tried in vain to make Mr. Bonar Law disclose whether Mr. Henderson's speech in Petrograd stating that the War aims of British Labour are a peace without annexations and indemnities, expresses the official policy of the Government. We hope it does.

AT LAST.

Mr. Bonar Law announced that the conditional old-age pension increase of 2s. 6d. would now apply to all old-age pensioners. Seven shillings and sixpence a week! What riches! The men who took so long to grant this enjoy weekly incomes of at least £40.

THE WHINE OF THE PROFITEERS.

The Finance Bill as amended was considered. Mr. G. Terrell (U.), Mr. D. Mason (L.), and others put in a plea for the manufacturer who was to pay 80 per cent. excess profit tax. He would so impoverish himself, they contended, that no money would be put by for reconstruction after the War. Mr. Bonar Law dismissed this argument, and showed that plant, etc., could be renewed. He pointed out that 80 per cent. of the excess profits would still leave the manufacturer his pre-War profit plus 20 per cent. Mr. Wardle (Lab.) moved that "Societies registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts" be exempted from Excess Profits Duty. Mr. Bonar Law deferred replying, pointing out that he meant to answer later. Mr. Dillon's (I.N.) amendment to raise the age of adopted children who would be exempted from income tax from sixteen to eighteen was put to a division, and defeated.

CORN PRODUCTION BILL.
SUBSIDISING THE LANDLORDS.

On Tuesday, July 10th, and Wednesday, 11th, Committee stage of the Corn Production Bill was taken. The object of this Bill, it may be mentioned, is to ensure a high price to farmers for oats and wheat, 38s. 6d. and 60s. respectively, with graduated decreases up to the year 1922. The difference between the market prices and these minima is to be made good by the Government, i.e., *the people!* Ostensibly the Bill is to increase the production of corn; but it does seem that the Government has strange ideas of how to attain this. The Bill, if it becomes law, will ensure high food prices for another six years, whereas little or no guarantee is forthcoming that the wages of workers, both agricultural and otherwise, will be maintained, even at their present level. Mr. Prothero in the previous discussions had declared that the corn sold was to be the test for paying the bonus to farmers, in spite of the argument that a good farmer should be able to consume the produce of his lands. On the Committee stage Mr. Shaw (L.) moved that the acreage under corn should be the basis for the bonus, and Mr. Prothero agreed. Other Members thought that the excess over tillage of 1913-1914 should only be subsidised, as the other tillage was sure to be carried on with or without subsidy. Mr. Wedgwood (L.), Mr. Anderson (Lab.) and Mr. Outhwaite (L.) denounced bolstering up the farming industry at the expense of the community. Mr. Outhwaite thought that the landlords would become so hated that the day of "retribution for the landed interest" would not be far off. It was surprising that the nationalisation of the land was not proposed at this juncture, for surely there is no other way to solve this problem than to bring about the cultivation of the land by the people and for the people. Especially as Irish Members showed how the average product of the land in Ireland is different from that of England, and thus Ireland would suffer by this Bill. All kinds of anomalies will occur. Inspection will be necessary to ensure that the acreage reported has been properly tilled. This will cost very much and entail starting a huge department with endless officials. We wish the debates this week might result in scrapping this scandalous legislation, and bringing about the nationalisation of the land.

MESOPOTAMIA.

The Debate on Mesopotamia was a long-winded one which extended over July 12th and 13th. Sir F. E. Smith, in a lengthy oration full of legal technicalities, explained that no man could be condemned on the findings of the Committee. There had been no lawyer, no famous judge amongst the Commissioners; the simple rules of cross-examination had been ignored. Evidence was given without the culprits having an opportunity to defend themselves. All this procedure showed that the Commission merely meant to gather information which might be used as thought fit. Mr. Chamberlain announced his resignation from the Chief Secretaryship of India. He rehearsed the story of the difficulty of taking Bagdad being greater than Sir John Nixon anticipated, hence the enormous loss of life and insufficiency of aid for the wounded. It seems to us that the real culprits were those who sanctioned the War, and having done so, failed to provide for the troops in Mesopotamia and elsewhere. Is not the Minister of War responsible in the first instance for the conduct of the War? Mr. Balfour sang the praises of Lord Hardinge and told the House that he had refused to let him resign his present office. He tried to explain away the unnecessary suffering of the wounded by saying: "These horrors must occur with any army which is in retirement." We thought the humane Balfour would have justified Mr. Chamberlain's statement earlier on in the debate that "the heart of the civilian is more tender than the heart of a soldier"! The proposal to set up a Court of Inquiry was denounced by Mr. Hogge (L.) on the ground of waste of public money to the extent of £100,000 or £250,000. Mr. Lloyd George in an objectionable speech inferred that these things did not matter, that to "get on with the War" was of greater import. And this although he said there was grave mismanagement somewhere. The Court of Inquiry or Statutory Committee that is contemplated will surely entail a great waste of energy. Why was not the Commission composed of people entitled to inquire and then pass judgment?

RULES FOR C.O.s.

The Committee appointed by the Government to supervise the employment of conscientious objectors has been revising its rules. Rule 4 states that men must work "with diligence and fidelity," and an explanatory memorandum adds that "*the men must be made to work hard*" and that the committee will not fail to take exemplary action against a man reported as not doing so.

Rule 6 directs that agents shall prescribe the *amount* of work to be performed in a day by each man or a gang of men, and the memorandum adds that—they punish the man or gang of men who fails to perform this amount." Is it certain that the agents will know how much of a particular kind of work a particular man or gang of men is capable of performing? Rule 7 states that a man shall be fined 1d. for every five minutes or less during which he is absent. Any man who incurs fines amounting to 6d. or more is to be reported to the Committee. The memorandum directs that the rule shall be rigidly enforced. The men are paid 8d. a day, from which deductions are made where separation allowance is made. Rules 12 and 13 forbid public propaganda, and even attendance at public meetings other than a "purely religious service in a duly authorised place of worship" or by permission of the agent or committee. This clearly indicates the vindictive desire to strike at the political opinions of those who are opposed to the War. Rule 16 prescribes that men who desire to make any "complaint, representation, or request" as to treatment by the agent, employment, food, clothing, medical attendance, etc., must put the same in writing and either deliver it unsealed to the agent to be forwarded to Committee, or, in forwarding it to the Committee, must hand a copy to the agent. If the agent is tyrannical this places a great power of coercion in his hands.

Rule 17 states that leave will only be granted for such reasons as the dangerous illness of a relative, and that "applications for special leave for business reasons will not be entertained." Rule 21 dictates that men must be in their quarters by 9.30 p.m. on pain of a fine of 1d. for absence of every five minutes or less.

For any breach of the Committee's rules or of local rules made by the agent, men may be recalled to prison or the Army. The previous Rules 29—31, relating to men's committees, are abandoned as, though the Committee has not decided to prohibit such committees, it will not recognise them in future "except in so far as they afford a convenient means of communication" with the men. This means "convenient" to the Committee, of course. For breaches of rules inspectors may order stoppages, up to 28 days, of pay, and confinement to quarters up to 14 days. Agents may order 7 days stoppage pay and confinement to quarters up to 7 days.

In short, the rules under which C.O.s are employed are being made harsher and more rigorous. To stop persecution, stop the War!

FOREIGN NEWS

CONFERENCE BETWEEN RUSSIAN AND GERMAN SOCIALISTS.

The Russian delegates had a conference in Stockholm with the German Socialists, Haase, Bernstein, and Kautsky.

THE GERMAN FRANCHISE.

The Reichstag Committee for Constitutional Reform is discussing the question of universal, equal, direct suffrage for the Federal Empire and for Alsace-Lorraine. The Socialists ask for proportional representation and an age limit of 20 years for voters.

The Liberals have resigned from the Russian Government because the Socialist Ministers proposed to give autonomy to Ukraine. This will hasten the progress of reform in Russia.

BRITISH AMBASSADOR SUPPORTS RUSSIAN CAPITALISTS.

According to the Italian "Corriere della Sera," the British Ambassador in Petrograd has written to the Foreign Office stating that great factories in which English capital is invested are menaced owing to the demands of the people. The Ambassdor calls on the Government to take immediate measures.

NAVAL REVOLT IN SEVASTOPOL.

The "Corriere della Sera" reports that adherents of Lenin and the Cronstadt and Sevastopol Republic have excited the sailors, who have refused to obey their officers and the Provisional Government. The Government has dismissed Admiral Korschik for lack of energy.

* * * *

The "Berner Tagwacht" reports that after the vote of the Labour delegates of Russia which has expressed its confidence to the Coalition Government—the Leninites have arranged a great manifestation with the motto. "Long live the Socialist ministry!" Exciting leaflets were distributed. The Leninites are distributing arms and munitions; they are mobilising the Russan red guard.

PEACE MOVEMENT IN RUSSIA.

A new peace movement is being organised by the Russian Bolscheveki and some other Socialist groups. Strong protests against the expulsion of the Swiss Socialist deputy, Grimm, have taken place.

SOCIALIST CALL FOR IMMEDIATE TRUCE.

"We must struggle for peace without annexations or indemnities," declared the manifesto of the Zimmerwald Socialist Conference.

The manifesto of the Kienthal Conference says:—"Exert pressure upon your Parliaments and Governments. Refuse immediately to give any support to the War policy through the representatives of Socialist parties. Ask the Socialist members of Parliament to vote against all War credits. Work with all possible means for a speedy end to the slaughter. 'An immediate truce' should be your motto."

The Russian peasants have declared their agreement with the attitude of the Provisional Government towards Ukraine, and in favour of a Federal Republic in Russia.

ROUMANIAN SOCIALIST EXECUTED.

The "Utro Rossii" announces that amongst the 32 persons executed in Jassy was the Roumanian Socialist, Wechster. This news has caused so much excitement in the Workers' and Soldiers' Council in Petrograd that the rupture between Roumania and Russia seems unavoidable.

AMNESTY IN AUSTRIA.

The Austrian Emperor has been forced to yield before the violent Slav opposition. By Imperial decree, all political prisoners in the Austrian Empire have been set free. Kramarz, who was charged with high treason, and Klopacz, charged with spying, have been released.

HUNGER RIOTS.

Serious riots, caused by shortage of food, are reported from Gleiwitz and Hindenburg. Great hunger riots are reported from Düsseldorf. Potato riots are reported from Amsterdam (Holland).

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Contributions, 1s. per month. Nothing if Unemployed.
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EAST END WORKERS' CHOIR

The Singing Class had its last lesson on Thursday, and will resume in September, when it is hoped that the attendance will be greatly increased.

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THE MOTHERS' ARMS: 438 Old Ford Road, E.3 Mother and Doctor's Consultations and Baby Weighing, Mondays 2.30 p.m. Infant Clinic and Day Nursery, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

MONTESSORI SCHOOL: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (by appointment with Miss Muriel Matters at the Mothers' Arms.

THE WOMEN'S HALL: 20 Railway Street (opposite South Bromley Station on the North London Railway) Mother and Infant Clinic, Doctor's Consultations and Baby Weighing, Mondays and Thursdays at 2.30 p.m. Cost Price Restaurant, &c.

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WHAT'S ON?

W.S.F. FIXTURES

OUTDOOR

FRIDAY, JULY 20th.
Beckton Road, Canning Town, 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
Highbury Corner, 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Cressall.
SATURDAY, JULY 21st.
Hoxton Street, 3 p.m., Rev. Cheetham, Miss Beamish.
"Abbey Arms," Canning Town, 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
SUNDAY, JULY 22nd.
Osborn Street, Whitechapel, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Walker.
Victoria Park, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Butler, Miss Lynch; chair, Mrs. Bouvier.
Beckton Road, Canning Town, 3 p.m., Mrs. Nellie Best, Mrs. Drake; chair, Mrs. Bouvier.
The Flagstaff, Hampstead, 3.30 p.m., Miss Mary Richardson, Mrs. Walker.
Hoe Street, Walthamstow (joint meeting with Trade and Labour Council), 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
The Square, Woolwich, 7 p.m., Mrs. Cressall.
TUESDAY, JULY 24th.
Stepney Green (joint meeting with U.D.C.), 8.30 p.m., Miss Lynch.
Walham Green joint meeting with Peace Negotiations Committee, 7.45 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
WEDNESDAY, JULY 25th.
Lesbia Road, 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
FRIDAY, JULY 27th.
Ford Road, Bow, 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Cressall.

INDOOR

BOW WOMEN'S HALL.—Bow Branch Meeting, Monday, 23rd July, 8 p.m. To elect delegates to Workers' and Soldiers' Council, July 28th, Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street. To-day, Saturday, 7.30 p.m., Social and Dance.

49 CREDITON ROAD, TIDAL BASIN.—Wednesday next, 8 p.m., Branch Meeting.

LEES HALL.—To-morrow (Sunday, 22nd), 7.30 p.m. Judge Neil on "Mothers' Pensions"; Mrs. Rosa Hobhouse. Chair, Mrs. Drake. Admission free.

ST. STEPHEN'S SHOP, 85 Hoxton Street (a few minutes' walk from Shoreditch Church or from Old Street Station). Social and dance will be held on Thursday, July 26th, from 8-11 p.m. Music. Speech by Mrs. Drake. Tickets, 4d. (including tax).

53 ST. LEONARD'S STREET, BROMLEY.—Monday next, 2.30 p.m., Mrs. Cressall.

WHITECHAPEL MEETING.

Public meeting will be held in the Lecture Hall, Toynbee Hall, Commercial Street, Whitechapel, on Monday, July 30th, at eight p.m. Speakers: Miss Sylvia Pankhurst and Mrs. Bouvier. Songs by M. Grishin (a Russian singer).

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

KINGSLEY HALL, BOW.—Sunday next, at 8.15 p.m. Mr. Leyton Richards will speak. Discussion, 9.30.

Two Demonstrations, Tuesday, July 24th, will join up at Beckton Road, Canning Town, at 7 p.m., and Forest Gate Station at 7.15 p.m. to march to Town Hall, Stratford, to ask the West Ham Borough Council to obtain powers from the Government to "organise the food supply," "knock down food prices," and "abolish the profiteer." Women! Turn out in thousands and save your children from starvation!

Demonstration in Hyde Park, Sunday, 29th, on the Food Supplies. Contingents are to be arranged from East India Dock Road at 12.30 p.m. Beckton Road, and Stratford Broadway, to meet at Dock Gates and Gardiner's Corner. Full particulars next week.

The Highland Land League will hold a meeting at Essex Hall, Strand, W.C., Tuesday, July 31st, at 7.30 p.m., to demand fairplay for the Raasay Islanders. p.m., to demand fairplay for the Raasay Islanders. Islanders appeared in the DREADNOUGHT of June 9th, copies of which are still on sale.

PEACE! SOCIALISM! VOTES FOR ALL!

Stop the hideous slaughter by ending the War! Down with Profiteering! Secure Food and Necessaries for all! Not Votes for some but Adult Suffrage! Down with the House of Lords!

SUMMER CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION

Meetings! Literature Distribution! Individual Talks with Everyone!

SUNDAY, JULY 22nd, SOUTH WEST HAM DISTRICT—Meet: BECKTON ROAD, 3 p.m.; Meetings: Open Air—BECKTON ROAD, 3 p.m.; LEES HALL, 7.30 p.m.: JUDGE NEIL on MOTHERS' PENSIONS. Secretary for the day: Miss LYNCH, 400 Old Ford Road, E.3.

SATURDAY, JULY 28th, WATERLOO ROAD DISTRICT—Meet: CHANDOS HALL, 3 p.m.; Meeting: WATERLOO BRIDGE ROAD, 7 p.m. Secretary for the day: Miss LYNCH, 400 Old Ford Road, E.
Speakers: Mrs. BOUVIER, Mrs. WALKER, Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4th, HOXTON AND SHOREDITCH DISTRICT—Meet: 85 HOXTON STREET, N., 3 p.m.; Meeting: WHITMORE HEAD, 7 p.m. Secretary for the day: Miss BEAMISH, 85 Hoxton Street.
Speakers: Mrs. BUTLER, Mrs. WALKER, Mrs. BOUVIER, and Mrs. BESSIE WARD.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11th, ST. PANCRAS DISTRICT—Meet: 3 p.m.; Meeting: 7 p.m. Secretary for the day:

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18th, WEST CENTRAL AND HYDE PARK DISTRICT—Meet: 3 p.m.; Meeting: HYDE PARK, 6 p.m. Secretary for the day:
Speakers: Mrs. WARD, Mrs. BOUVIER, and others.

Help by Your Work! Join the Workers' Suffrage Federation! Give What You Can!

FEDERATION NOTES

THE REFERENDUM.

The Referendum in Bow on Adult Suffrage, Proportional Representation, and the Referendum is making good headway, but more canvassers are needed. If all members in the district would undertake to canvass the street in which they live we should be able to produce results in a very short time. We expected the antis to come down to help us prove that women do want the vote, but up to the present time they have not put in an appearance.

NEW BRANCHES.

New branches are being formed at Camberwell, Islington, Kensal Rise, and Whitechapel. All members and sympathisers who live in these neighbourhoods and are willing to help in any way should send in their names. The secretaries will welcome all the assistance they can get.

HACKNEY BRANCH.

The Hackney branch hopes soon to have weekly, instead of monthly meetings. The Adult School at London Fields is taking a keen interest in our progress. It has sent reporters to our branch meeting and a deputation to see our social work in Bow. We hope soon to have an At Home, at which these friends and others as well as Hackney members, will have an opportunity of meeting Miss Pankhurst and learning more about the recent developments of the Federation.

PEOPLE'S CHARTER MEETINGS.

Our branches throughout the country are asked to assist the general movement towards freedom and the work of the Workers' and Soldiers' Councils by holding "People's Charter" meetings on Peace, Votes, and Food. This would assist in bringing a knowledge of the principles for which the Leeds Conference stood to the general public. It would also help to make people in this country understand that although Russians may have won their own freedom, it is hardly fair to expect them to win liberty for the whole world.

BOW BRANCH.

London members are asked to give their support to the social at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, to-day (Saturday), 7.30 p.m., in aid of the General Funds. Some of our Bow and Poplar children are hard at work practising the Red Flag and dances for the occasion. They are not old enough to help in other ways, but the enthusiasm they bring to their part of the work is delightful. The members in charge of the refreshments appeal for gifts so that they may make even more profit than they did last time. Don't forget to buy tickets (price 6d. each) for yourselves and friends. Miss Smyth will be in the chair.

POPLAR SOCIALIST SUNDAY SCHOOL.

To-day, also, the Poplar Socialist Sunday School is having an outing. The classes are held at 20 Railway Street every Sunday, at 3 p.m. New pupils will be welcomed.—P. LYNCH.

HOXTON BRANCH.

A Jumble Sale will be held in aid of branch funds on August 13th. Gifts of left-off clothing or lumber will be gratefully received by Hon. Sec., St. Stephen's Shop, 85 Hoxton Street, N.1.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH.

Private C. J. Simmons, local Secretary of the Workers' and Soldiers' Council will speak at Stirchley Institute on Wednesday, July 25th, at 7.30 p.m. Chair, Miss M. Haly. All members and readers of the DREADNOUGHT should be present.

On Wednesday, July 11th, Miss Haly gave a lecture on "Freedom," the last of a splendid series on "Internationalism" After the lecture it was decided that Birmingham Branch should pay for an Indicator for the DREADNOUGHT; eight members gave 1s. each and others promised to do so. All members not present are earnestly asked to help to advertise the DREADNOUGHT in this way.

Local Secretary, Mrs. Henson, 85 Watford Road, King's Norton.

HOLIDAYS.

Members of the W.S.F. staff are now on holiday. Will friends who have spare time at their disposal help at our office, 400 Old Ford Road either by doing clerical work or canvassing?

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

GENERAL FUND.—Messrs. F. and T. Thorne, £1 1s.; Irene, per Mrs. Drake (weekly), £1; National Economy Devotee, 10s.; Mrs. E. Patterson, 5s.; Mrs. A. Darley, 5s.; Miss M. Harvey, 3s. 9d.; Mr. J. Genge, 2s. 6d. COLLECTIONS: Mrs. Walker, 8s. 4d.; Mrs. Boyce, 6s.; Bow Women's Hall, 2s. 6½d.; Mrs. Bouvier, 1s. 2½d.

"DREADNOUGHT" FUND.—Anon, £2; Mrs. Minturn Scott (Indicator), £1 10s.; P. Hawkins, Esq., 8s. 9d.; Mrs. Adeline G. Cannon, 2s. 6d.; Mr. James Wilson, 2s.; Miss G. P. Boothroyd, 1s.

MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Messrs. McDougalls Ltd. (Restaurant), £2 2s.; Lady Sybil Smith (special cases), £2; Miss M. A. Pelly, £1 7s.; Mrs. Hardy (Montessori), £1 1s.; Mrs. Henderson (Montessori), £1 1s.; Nurse Hebbes (weekly), 12s.; Mrs. Lelia Burroughs (monthly), 10s.; Mrs. Utherwood, 8s.; Miss E. Sykes, 5s.; per Nurse Connolly, 5s; Miss Julia T. Drewry (monthly), 5s.; Miss Crabb (monthly), 3s. 6d.; Miss E. Burden, 2s.; A Walthamstow Sympathiser, per Mrs. Bouvier, 1s. COLLECTIONS: L.S.A. Toolroom, £2 18s. 8d.; Miss E. Lagsding (Green's Yard), 15s. 3d.; Mrs. Casey (Churn), 13s. 9½d.; Central Hall, 9s.

Miss Warren, sun blind; clothes, Anon; books, P. Hawkins, Esq.

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